

(For Private Circulation.)

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## REPORT OF AID

GIVEN TO

# DESTITUTE MOTHERS AND INFANTS

IN

1892.

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We testify to the need of this charity, and believe that the money given to it will be faithfully and judiciously expended.

W. L. RICHARDSON, M. D.,  
Physician of Boston Lying-in Hospital.

CHARLES P. PUTNAM, M. D.,  
Physician of Mass. Infant Asylum.

EMMA L. CALL, M. D.,  
Attending Physician N. E. Hospital for Women.



## OBJECT OF THIS CHARITY.

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THIS work was begun in the winter of 1873-4.

The primary object is to assist a mother to keep her infant in her personal charge, and by temporary aid to help her to become permanently self-supporting, when without such help she might be obliged either to give her child up for adoption or place it at board where it might perhaps be neglected. This includes, as a secondary object, some supervision of infants. The mother is our first interest; but we think we assist her best by helping her to faithfully care for her child.

Married and unmarried mothers are equally included in this charity. The only condition of receiving help is that a mother shall love her infant and desire to keep it with her and work for it.

The principal characteristics of our work are as follows:

1. We are not a society. Our active working force consists of three persons, who give to it the larger part of their time. Working as private individuals, they are able better to enter into personal relations with those whom they help. There is also the advantage of being free to adapt themselves to the peculiar needs of each woman assisted, who is herself regarded as an individual and not as a member of a class.

2. The work is done without an institution. However necessary a building and board of officials may be for some charities, we think that we work to better

advantage without these appliances; and we are also able to accomplish more with less expense than if we had an establishment to maintain.

3. The help given in money is intended to be temporary, and to place each individual in a position where she may become self-supporting as soon as possible. Some of our mothers receive but little help in money, others *none*, but each has what she needs of advice and assistance.

4. This is, perhaps, the most important feature of our work. An unmarried mother is helped, not on the ground that she has "fallen," but because she is a *mother*, anxious to earn her child's support, and to act the part of a good mother toward it. This avoids stamping a well-meaning girl as a member of a degraded class.

During the year 1892 we have assisted 223 mothers with infants.

We desire to call attention to the point that the young unmarried women whom we help are not *depraved*. It is not always understood by those not familiar with such work that an unprotected, inexperienced girl may be led astray and yet that she may not have a tendency to evil in her character. Perhaps it is not possible to *feel* too much pity and sympathy for a young girl in a situation so critical; but there is a way of expressing such sympathy which is injurious to her, and weakens instead of strengthening her moral nature. Many of these young women are like children, undeveloped; the reason and conscience are in embryo, and cannot be relied on as a guiding principle; but there is one influence to which we can appeal,

and that is the affections. If a mother loves her child, and keeps it in her personal care, she has in it both a safeguard from temptation and a constant impulse toward a better life. The care of the child educates the mother's whole higher nature. During the nineteen years which our work has lasted we have watched the good effect of this influence in so many cases that we earnestly deprecate any method which necessitates the separation of an unmarried mother from her child.

We should like to give the history of each woman whom we have assisted, but as this is impossible, we will this year give a somewhat fuller report than usual of what has been done for unmarried mothers. Of these some are taken under our care weeks, or occasionally months, before the birth of the infant. Sometimes a young girl has been turned out of the house by an ignorant, undisciplined mother and father; sometimes she has wandered away and is afraid to go home. After a time the feelings of the parents may change, and they may again be willing to receive their child; but unless sheltered at the right moment she is in great peril, since there are those who would take advantage of her friendless condition to lead her into evil under pretence of offering her a home.

To the one hundred and sixteen mothers taken as new cases in 1892, help was given in the following manner: Twenty-six were sent to the Massachusetts Infant Asylum as wet-nurses. Where this arrangement is made the child of the nurse is admitted with its mother, and remains in her personal care. The woman nurses two infants, her own and another, giving to each one-half of her milk, and feeding each baby

half the time. By this plan not only separation is avoided, and the child has good care and nourishment, but the mother has employment, and is doing useful work which has a wholesome effect upon her mind and character. If a woman does well at the Asylum it is not hard to obtain for her a good situation when she leaves it. Ten of these twenty-six have already been sent as domestics to families who received mother and infant together. Three were taken home by relatives. Two did not do well at the Asylum, and have not been heard from since leaving there. One did well while at the Asylum, but has not done well since leaving; while others, taken late in the year 1892, remain at present at the Asylum.

Of our other women, fifty have been sent to service in families, each having her infant with her.

We have heard it said that it is unreasonable to expect a woman with a young child to earn her living in this way, since a mother who has an infant to care for can do nothing else without neglecting her child. But, as many mothers who have several young children take care of them *all* and do, besides, the work of the house, cooking, washing, sewing and house-cleaning, it is not beyond the power of a woman who is willing to exert herself to *assist* in the housework of a small family, where there is perhaps no child but her own, and where a woman of experience plans and directs all the work, and often does a part of it herself. If too much is required of a domestic another situation can be obtained for her.

We have found this the best method of assisting a mother. She is sheltered and protected from bad in-

fluences; the infant has a good home, the family of the employer often becoming very fond of it; and there is so great a demand for domestic service in our country towns that a young woman really desirous of doing well is usually treated with kindness and consideration, has opportunities of improving herself, and the satisfaction of feeling that her work is useful, and that she is retrieving her character and justly winning respect and confidence.

Of the fifty spoken of above the record is (up to date of this Report) that twenty-two have done very well; twenty-six fairly well; two badly.

Of the others, seven were taken home and cared for by parents or relatives.

Three were received for a time in the nursery department of the Dedham Home, to be taught and trained, that they might be prepared to take situations in families.

One was married shortly after leaving the hospital.

One lost her infant and immediately afterwards took a situation as wet-nurse, with our approval.

One was persuaded to take a situation as wet-nurse and to put her child at board, a course which we do not think advisable, but cannot always prevent. This naturally concludes her connection with us.

Three preferred to make arrangements for themselves after leaving the hospital.

For three employment was found and some help given, but they failed to keep appointments made with us.

One needed only a little help, but enough to record.

One case stands over for further consideration, it



seeming as yet doubtful what course will be best to take.

Four proved early in their connection with us to be unworthy of help. We desire to explain that while a depraved woman is not properly included among those whom we undertake to assist, we sometimes give an applicant the benefit of the doubt, and try her for a time, before deciding against her. Of the four mentioned, one refused offers of help from us, made during her stay at the hospital. We had not seen her before, but feeling that she was under bad influence from a friend of hers, we made special exertions to save her, which were nevertheless fruitless. The second applied to us three times in the course of the summer of 1892; each time we gave help, not in money, but by finding her employment; she failed to meet the engagements made for her, every time, and circumstances finally showed that she had no desire to lead a good life. The third was recommended to us by another charity, and we took her on our list on probation; but she also proved unworthy. One, with her own consent, we planned to send home to her family in Nova Scotia, but she failed to meet us when the arrangements were made; this was a young girl of eighteen.

Of some, taken toward the end of the year, it is not yet practicable to complete the record.

We give the following brief account of cases not mentioned in former reports, except by giving age and nationality.



1. Irish-American. Taken in 1891. We have found situations for her, with her child. She has done very well for two years, and we hear from her often.

2. Irish. Taken in May, 1891. Then eighteen years old. A rough, untidy girl. Has steadily improved for nearly two years. She is so fond of her baby, that when her family offered to take her home, on condition of giving him up for adoption, she replied "never; so long as I can work. I shall stand by my child."

3. English. Taken in 1890. In 1892 she was married to a very respectable young man who had known her for many years, and who adopted her child as his own.

4. Irish. Taken in May, 1891. Has been received by an uncle, who invited her and her child to make their home with him. She supports herself by working in a factory. This was a really superior young woman. A lady in whose family she lived while under our care said she "never had so good a girl; and expected never to have another like her."

5. Scotch. 1891. We sent her with her child to a situation, where she has remained ever since. The family who employ her are very fond of the baby, and do everything for him that a child can need to make him happy and comfortable.

6. Irish-American. Taken early in January, 1892. She went in April to The Mass. Infant Asylum; and remained there six months as wet nurse, her infant with her. While she was at the Asylum, a child who was there had erysipelas, and the other nurses shrank from wet-nursing him. M. came forward and offered to take him, saying, "not that I think less of my own baby than they do, but some one must save poor little N." Afterward she went several times a day to nurse a sick baby in the neighborhood of the Asylum.

7. Irish-American. Taken early in January, 1892. She was persuaded by her sister to take a wet nurse's place, and her own infant was placed at board by the same sister. We had the boarding place investigated, and found that two other infants were boarded there, one a very sickly child, so that it was not well for ——'s baby to remain there. Upon receiving a statement of the facts she wrote us the following letter:

"I received your note this morning, and the anxiety it has caused me on behalf of my little one cannot be imagined. As you have made it clear to me I see that I have left him in danger. In regard to being enticed by high wages, I told my sister I would rather have *my boy* and less wages, and she told me to write and let you know. I did not know that I was coming to this place until a few moments before I left the Hospital. The arrangements had all been made; of course, my sister thought it (the boarding place) was a good place for baby, or she would not have put him there. What are wages to me compared with my boy's health and life? If necessary, I would work day and night without wages, were it to insure his safety. I did not want to take any more from my sister, so took the first thing that presented itself.

I have already suffered for putting him out to board, but will go tomorrow and see him and make arrangements to take him from this place."

We found a situation for her with the infant, and her work was so valuable that during a part of the summer she received \$4.00 a week (equivalent, it will be understood, to \$6.00 or \$7.00 without a child). It is now over a year since she first came to us, and she is doing extremely well and valued by her employer.

8. Taken in February, 1892. Nova Scotia, 22. This young woman was engaged to be married, and within a month or two after we had taken her in charge, her child's father, who was living in the West, wrote and made arrangements for her to come out to him and be married. He sent her \$100 to pay the expenses of the journey, and the matter was settled early in the spring of 1892. The baby, a beautiful and healthy little girl, has a good home with her *own* father and mother, instead of being thrown on strangers for her support.

9. Taken in February, 1892. 23 years, Nova Scotia. Employment as domestic in a family was found for her, with her child. Later she took her infant home to Nova Scotia, to her own mother, who was glad to receive it.

10. Colored. March, 1892. Widow, 23 years. Her husband had died of consumption some months before. She had supported herself by going out to work and did not ask for a free-bed at the N. E. Hospital, preferring to pay the fee; but having met with a slight injury was prevented from earning the money and was received as a free patient. We offered to pay her board two weeks after leaving the Hospital that she might not be obliged to work before her strength was restored, nor to run into debt. By the end of the two weeks she had obtained permanent employment, at increased wages, enabling her to wholly support herself and infant.

11. Nova Scotia, 19 years. Taken in 1892. This young girl was a domestic in the family of a lady who was very kind to her. She had a card to the N. E. Hospital, but was unable to come there for confinement. Her father, on being told of her circumstances, received her and the child, and willingly made a home for them.

12. American, 21 years. Taken in the spring of 1892. Lately became tired of working with her child, and thought of putting him out to board; but on having it explained to her that it would be better for the baby to have her care during the summer, and not place him at board until he should be eighteen months old, she readily consented, and has taken another situation with him.

13. English, 19 years. Taken in June, 1892. Has been provided with two situations (her child with her). She went to the last in September, 1892, and has remained there up to date of report, giving satisfaction.

14. Irish-American, 24 years. Taken in June, 1892. Sent to a situation almost immediately, and has remained there ever since, giving satisfaction.

15. 21 years, Irish-American. Taken in November, 1892. The lady in whose family she had lived as domestic for four or five months before coming

to us, said she never had had a girl with so good a disposition. Her infant died when about two weeks old. She grieved so much for it, that when an offer was made her of a wet nurse's place, she accepted it, "because she thought she should not feel so lonely, if she had a baby to take care of."

16. 21 years, Nova Scotia. Taken December, 1892. Sent January 12, 1893, to a small family living in the country, her infant with her. In March, we received a letter from the sister of N.'s employer, saying, "My sister is well satisfied with her, and they do not mind the baby at all. In fact they have given her \$1.50 instead of \$1.00 a week. I have not seen E—— but I think she must be content; and it seems good to think I should have run across a good girl, and be the means of making a good woman of her, with my sister's help; for, where she is, with my sister to shield her, she can become a good, true woman. Please God it may be so."

OF THE MANY INTERESTING LETTERS WE RECEIVE WE GIVE THE  
FOLLOWING :

January, 1893.

"*Dear Miss*——. I take pleasure to let you know that I got here on Tuesday, and I like the place very well. Mr. and Mrs.—— are very kind to me, and they like the baby, cause she is so good. I do not have to work very hard, for the house is very small and they have not a very big wash. I think it is a very nice place. I would sooner be here than in the city. I would have wrote to you before, only I wanted to see how I got along, so I could tell you how I liked the place. I thank you very much for being so kind to me. Good night, from ——"

FROM AN EMPLOYER.

"*Miss Covell, dear friend*:—Your letter came this A. M. I was intending to write to you. I certainly think your influence over girls is something wonderful; a person would hardly believe how M. has changed since you were here, and the funny part of it is the baby has not cried a night since. If M. will hold out as well as she is doing now, I don't know as I could do much better, unless we should happen to come across another "H."

March, 1893.

"*Dear friend, Miss* ——. I just received your letter, and was more than delighted to hear from you; but I am very sorry for sending you such a letter, but I hope you will forgive me, as I was in such a temper for the minute that I really could not help it at the time; but I suppose it is for the want of understanding, or a little better sense. Mrs. —— does not know I have written you such a letter; if she did it would be the last of me in the house, I am sure. I hope you will forgive me, for if you don't, I don't know what I will do for a friend when I need one; and I hope you won't go back on me or my little child. I have not much more to say now, only please write again and say you will forgive me. for the best in the world must have a fault sometimes; and thanks for your good advice, what you always gave me. L. (the

little girl) sends her love to you: please do write soon again. I will be a good girl and not mind nonsense any more. I suppose I am foolish."

January, 1893.

"*Dear Miss* ——. I received your box and its contents New Year's Eve, and was very much pleased with it, and thankful also. I expected to go to work with my baby last Monday, but owing to its being very cold, and my baby had some cold, I did not go. My health is remarkably good, and I feel just as strong as I ever did in my life. My friend is very good to me and makes everything very pleasant and comfortable for us. But I'm very anxious to begin to work, as I've never stopped working so long before in my life—or in eight years any way. I am very grateful to you for the interest you took in myself and child; also, for the care and kind treatment I received from both doctors and nurses, while at the New England Hospital. Yours very gratefully and sincerely."

January, '93.

"*Dear Miss* ——. I received your kind remembrance at Christmas, and thank you very much. Mr. ——— remembered baby, by giving him a box of blocks. He also received from a friend two knitted jackets, pink and blue, and from another a rocking-horse, arranged so I can put it in my trunk, if I wish. I expect something from my sister that has not yet arrived. He was very fortunate, I think. I think I can say, on this first day of the year, that, take everything together, I am happier than I ever was before. First, I have my boy, who is perfectly healthy, bright and very good, and is said to be a beautiful child by all who see him. Second, I have friends such as yourself and Miss ——— whose influence is all that is good. I feel if I had always had such influence, my position in life might have been different; but, from infancy I will say, it was quite the reverse. I think I have a great deal to be sorry for, but more to be thankful for. Sincere gratitude for your kindness."

MRS. JAMES FREEMAN CLARKE.

MRS. W. C. WILLIAMSON.

MARY R. PARKMAN.

LILIAN FREEMAN CLARKE.

NANCY W. COVELL.

Subscriptions may be sent to Mrs. JAMES FREEMAN CLARKE, Jamaica Plain, Mass., or to Dr. C. P. PUTNAM, 63 Marlborough Street, Boston.

To prevent inconvenience, we add that the ladies who carry on this charity are not able to see applicants at their homes.

Miss Parkman may be seen on Mondays and Thursdays, at Room 48, Chardon Street Building, 2.30 to 4.30 P. M.

Miss Clarke or Miss Covell will be at 29 Fayette Street every Thursday, 2.30 to 4.30 P. M., and at the New England Hospital every Monday at the same hour.

## MOTHERS ASSISTED DURING 1892.

Old cases (continued from 1891)	57
New cases (first taken in 1892)	166
Whole number assisted in 1892,	223
Married women (new cases)	50
Unmarried women (new cases)	116
	166
Married women (old cases)	16
Unmarried women (old cases)	41
	57

## NATIONALITY OF OLD CASES.

*(Married.)*

American,	2
Irish,	3
Irish-American,	4
Colored,	2
German,	1
Canadian,	1
Scotch,	1
Russian,	1
English-Irish,	1
	16

## NATIONALITY OF OLD CASES.

*(Unmarried.)*

American,	9
Irish-American,	10
Irish,	9
British Provinces,	8
Swedish,	2
English,	1
French,	1
Scotch,	1
	41

## NATIONALITY OF NEW CASES.

*(Married.)*

American,	9
Irish,	11
Irish-American,	6
British Provinces,	9
Colored,	5
English,	3
Swedish	3
German,	1
Danish	1
Welsh,	1
English-American,	1
	50

## NATIONALITY OF NEW CASES.

*(Unmarried.)*

American,	23
Irish,	24
Irish-American,	13
British Provinces,	32
English,	9
Swedish,	4
Colored,	2
Scotch,	1
Swiss,	1
German,	1
West Indies,	1
Norwegian,	1
Scotch-Irish	1
English-Irish,	1
French-American,	1
Unknown,	1
	116
American,	23
Other Nationalities,	93
	116



## AGES OF NEW CASES.

(Unmarried.)

16 years old, . . . . .	1
17 " " . . . . .	7
18 " " . . . . .	10
19 " " . . . . .	11
20 " " . . . . .	7
21 " " . . . . .	16
22 " " . . . . .	15
23 " " . . . . .	16
24 " " . . . . .	11

26 years old, . . . . .	3
27 " " . . . . .	4
28 " " . . . . .	2
29 " " . . . . .	2
31 " " . . . . .	2
32 " " . . . . .	1
34 " " . . . . .	1
35 " " . . . . .	1
Over 35, . . . . .	4
Unrecorded, . . . . .	2

116

## RECEIVED DURING 1892.

<i>On hand Jan. 1, 1892,</i> . . .	\$345.91
James M. Barnard, . . . .	10.00
Mrs. S. Parkman Blake, . .	10.00
B, . . . . .	100.00
Mrs. Louis Cabot, . . . .	100.00
Miss Susan E. Cary, . . . .	10.00
Miss C. H. Clarke, . . . .	5.00
Mrs. E. C. Clarke, . . . .	10.00
Mrs. Charles A. Cummings, .	5.00
Mrs. C. P. Curtis, . . . .	20.00
Mrs. James F. Curtis, . . .	10.00
Mrs. James C. Davis, . . . .	10.00
Mrs. Otto Dresel, . . . .	20.00
Mrs. Geo. Faulkner, . . . .	10.00
Mrs. W. H. Forbes, . . . .	25.00
Miss Matilda Goddard, . . .	20.00
Miss Harriet Gray, . . . .	25.00
Mrs. Horace Gray, . . . .	25.00
Mrs. Wm. B. Greene, . . . .	100.00
Henry S. Grew, subscription, .	25.00
Henry S. Grew, donation, —	25.00
F. L. Higginson, . . . . .	300.00
Mrs. Henry P. Kidder, . . . .	15.00
Miss Helen F. Kimball, . . .	5.00
Mrs. John E. Lodge, . . . .	50.00
Miss Anna C. Lowell, . . . .	100.00
Miss Ida M. Mason, . . . .	200.00
Mrs. Geo. A. Meyer, . . . .	10.00

Mrs. G. von L. Meyer, . . . .	100.00
Dr. F. Minot, . . . . .	10.00
Mrs. Ellis L. Motte, . . . .	3.00
Mrs. J. H. Morison, . . . .	5.00
Mrs. W. R. Nichols, . . . .	5.00
Andrew Nickerson, . . . .	10.00
Miss Laura Norcross, . . . .	5.00
The Misses Paine, . . . .	10.00
Mrs. John Parkinson, . . . .	10.00
Mrs. William Parsons, . . . .	30.00
Mrs. D. L. Pickman, . . . .	25.00
Miss G. L. Putnam, . . . .	10.00
Dr. W. L. Richardson, . . . .	50.00
Miss Marian Russell, . . . .	25.00
Mrs. R. S. Russell, . . . .	10.00
Mrs. F. C. Shattuck, . . . .	10.00
Mrs. G. Howland Shaw, . . .	10.00
Mrs. Henry S. Shaw, . . . .	10.00
Mrs. Francis Skinner, . . . .	20.00
Miss M. A. Wales, . . . .	20.00
Miss M. S. Walker, . . . .	50.00
Mrs. C. E. Ware, . . . . .	100.00
Mrs. Wm. F. Weld, . . . .	25.00
Mrs. Edward Wheelwright, . .	25.00
Miss Amy White, . . . .	5.00
Mrs. J. Huntington Wol-	
cott, . . . . .	25.00
" W.", . . . . .	10.00



## DONATIONS OF CLOTHING, &amp;c.

Mrs. E. E. Butler.	Benevolent Committee of Church
Mrs. E. C. Clarke.	of the Disciples.
Mrs. Geo. Faulkner.	Mrs. A. S. Porter.
Mrs. J. H. Morison.	Mrs. Wm. Parsons.
Miss R. P. Wainwright.	Mrs. Geo. H. Preston.
Boston Sewing Circle, by Miss	Miss G. L. Putnam, (clothing-and
Loring.	toys).

## DESTITUTE MOTHERS AND INFANTS IN ACCOUNT WITH

ANNA H. CLARKE, *Treasurer.**Dr.*

To Board of women, . . . . .	\$521.89
Board of children, . . . . .	461.86
Clothing of women, . . . . .	234.55
Clothing of children, . . . . .	118.59
Milk and food, . . . . .	104.69
Fares and travelling, . . . . .	169.30
Advertising, . . . . .	42.00
Medicine, . . . . .	6.62
Printing, . . . . .	29.88
Rent, . . . . .	5.00
Given as rewards for good conduct, . . . . .	10.00
Sundries, . . . . .	207.49
Total expended in 1892, . . . . .	\$1,911.87
Salary of Miss Covell (gift of Mrs. W. B. Greene), . . . . .	612.00
Balance to new account, . . . . .	347.04
	<u>\$2,870.91</u>

*Cr.*

Jan. 1, 1892, by cash on hand, . . . . .	\$345.91
By subscriptions during 1892, . . . . .	1,863.00
Interest on bond, . . . . .	50.00
Gift of Mrs. W. B. Greene, salary of Miss Covell, . . . . .	612.00
	<u>\$2,870.91</u>

We wish to explain that the money on hand at the beginning of the year does not signify that we have received more than we need, but that the subscriptions which come to us late in the year, sometimes the end of December, are the fund with which we meet the first expenses of the new year.

